

INTRODUCTION

Review: equipping the saints (Eph4:11-12), unity and diversity (1Cor12), discovery of spiritual gifts (Rom12), sphere of exercise being hospitality

- Rom12:5 our responsibilities to one another are based on our unity in Christ as part of the some body caring for itself
- "one another" is a key phrase in the letters of the NT to direct us as Christians as to our relationship with the church

EXPOSITION**Foundational Principle - LOVE****Why is love of the brethren important?**

- 1.) It is a fulfilling of the law of God in the 2nd great commandment - Rom13:8
- 2.) It is fundamental to the Christian message – 1Jn3:11; coupled w/belief on Christ 3:23
- 3.) It demonstrates the reality of our conversion - 4:7 an evidence of the new birth and knowing God
- 4.) It demonstrates to the world we are Christ's disciples – Jn13:35
- 5.) Without it, nothing else matters – 1Pet4:8; 1Cor13

What is the nature of this love? 1Pet 1:22

- 1.) Sincere - (Gk. anupakritos) = genuine, un hypocritical
- 2.) Fervent - (Gk. ektenos) = earnestly (marked by deep zeal) constantly (persistent)
- 3.) Emotionally/desires - lit. "out of the heart"

- this all being so, how do we love the brethren?; 3 ways What we think, what we say, and what we do

I. WHAT WE THINK

- Rom12:1 right living originates with right thinking; the path to transformation in our life begins with the mind

A. Accepting One Another

- Rom15:7 (Gk. proslambanomai) – welcome, receive, take hold of with friendliness Act28:2
 - Rom14:1 this is particularly seen demonstrated in accepting those weak in the faith
 - The way that this is to be done is patterned after the Lord Jesus Christ; he takes us when we are weak, immature, and in great need; this will be seen in later study expressed tangible ways; but begins in the heart
 - This is the opposite of closed-heartedness, out of defense, suspicion, and keeping at distance
 - We long for acceptance, and will often gravitate toward those with whom we feel camaraderie; this in Christ
- notice what "good things" Paul is constantly saying about believers in epistles w/even troubled saints

B. Honoring One Another

- Rom12:10 (Gk. proaygoumenoi) = outdo, lead the way...in honor (Gk. timay); eager to show respect, excelling
 - Rom12:16 same mind, setting on high things (positions, influence), humble association, not wise in own eyes
- part of the great problem is who we esteem and why; when we esteem worldly success, "stars", famous people, our esteem is misplaced
- Ps15:4 honors those who fear the Lord; Ps16:3 have delight in the saints
- Ps101:6 eyes on the faithful; Ps119:63 companion on those who fear God and keep precepts

C. Being Concerned About One Another

- 1Cor12:25 (Gk. merimnao) = deep concern (neg. anxious/worry) about both spiritual and physical well-being
 - this is to be shared by all, having the same concern
 - 2Cor11:28 Paul's deep concern for the life of the churches

APPLICATION

What do you think about one another? Do you accept, do you honor, are you concerned?

- We have a huge obstacle to overcome, our own native selfishness and self-centeredness
- There is none more accepting, honoring (Ps16:3), and concerned than the Lord Jesus for His people
- To do this is to more reflect the heart of Christ for His church, His body
- We need the help of His Spirit to enable us to overcome our sin and help us to think rightly about one another